



## Verna "JoAnn" Gorrell

October 18, 1934 - November 16, 2023

Verna JoAnn Gorrell, age 89, of Beach, ND passed away on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at Glendive Medical Center Extended Care in Glendive, MT. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, November 27, 2023 at Silha Funeral Home in Beach with Interment at Sunnyside Cemetery, ND. Silha Funeral Home of Beach has been entrusted with the arrangements.

JoAnn was born to Vern and Inez (Franzen) Myers on October 18th, 1934 in Beach. She lived with her parents and sisters, Jean (Adams) and Judy (McGlenn) on the family ranch near Sentinel Butte, ND. JoAnn attended school in that area, graduating from Sentinel Butte High School in 1951, then attended Dickinson Teachers College for one year.

JoAnn met Jay Gorrell and after dating, they were married in Rapid City, SD on April 16th, 1952, at the home of friends-of-the-bride, the Klassy's. After a honeymoon trip through South Dakota and Wyoming, Jay and JoAnn settled on the Gorrell ranch at Trotters. Jay and JoAnn also lived in Oklahoma, Colorado, and East Glacier, MT. when Jay worked for the oil companies. From their union four children were born: Miki (Alan) Zeman of Tucson, AZ, Margie Gorrell of Tucson, Jeff Gorrell of Trotters, and Joe (Debbie) Gorrell of Trotters; five grandchildren, Colton (Raechel) Gorrell of Winnett, MT, Clinton (Kaitlyn) Gorrell of Trotters, Tyler (Melissa) Zeman of Mesa, AZ, Grady Gorrell of Miles City, MT, and Dalton (Kali) Miske of Wibaux, MT, and five great-grandchildren, Peyton, Evie, Jay, Marlowe and Vann.

Jay and JoAnn were married for over 50 years and they celebrated their 50th Anniversary at Squaw Gap. Jay passed in 2007, after a long and successful ranching life. He and JoAnn were respected by all in their community. JoAnn remained living on the ranch for many years, where she continued to be the ultimate ranch wife. She was always up early – in the kitchen with coffee made and breakfast cooking and following breakfast, she might sit and have a cup of coffee after cleaning up the kitchen. She'd start making dinner (the big meal came at noon), with the supper light, sometimes with leftovers from dinner.

JoAnn kept everyone's clothes clean & pressed their Wranglers and shirts! She kept the house up and always welcomed neighbors who might stop by. Also helping on the ranch, sometimes feeding little calves brought in that needed some extra care, they might be early, and it would be COLD! She also loved to ride her horse, Dunny, when she and Jay rode in Prairie Dog to gather the cattle. JoAnn kept the lawn mowed and planted flowers on the east side of the house and loved to sit on the deck with a cup of coffee. She made the best chokecherry jelly and always seemed to have a sweet treat for the guys if they took an afternoon break. JoAnn was a member of the Trotter's Lady's Aid and Trotters Community Church.

JoAnn was the best wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister-in-law, and aunt anyone could have. She was loved dearly by all of us.

God be with you, JoAnn, as you go to Jay and until we all meet again.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.silhafuneralhomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Sunny Side Cemetery

Trotters, ND

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

NOV 27. 10:00 AM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Beach, North Dakota  
125 4th Avenue Southwest  
P.O. Box 488  
Beach, ND 58621  
(701) 872-3232  
[silha@midstate.net](mailto:silha@midstate.net)

# Tribute Wall



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Verna "JoAnn" Gorrell.



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November 26, 2023 at 09:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Verna "JoAnn" Gorrell.

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November 26, 2023 at 09:43 PM



“ Joanne was a great member of the Trotters Homemakers Club sharing many a meeting with ranch women neighbors and friends. Many times, the adventure was simply getting to our homes. Muddy roads, the "pig fence" swinging bridge at Donald Halls crossed in the spring when Beaver Creek was high (I'm never doing THAT again!), and all of them showing up wearing 4 buckle overshoes! Ranch women determined to see each other and share their lives and skills. We'll all be drinking coffee together again someday (without the 4 buckles). Judy Goldsberry

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**Judy Goldsberry** - November 26, 2023 at 02:39 PM

DL

“ *Deb Lewis lit a candle in memory of Verna Gorrell*



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**Deb Lewis** - November 26, 2023 at 10:56 AM

DL

“ *I will always remember her little giggle and beautiful smile. Jay and JoAnn both left great memories with our family. Mom and JoAnn had nicknames for one another: JoAnn was Mrs.G and mom Mrs. S. They had many wonderful chats on the phone with lots of giggles. JoAnn was one sweet lady as you all know!! Thank goodness for memories ❤️ hugs to you all. little Debbie Svendsen 😊 and Darlene Erickson.*

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**Deb Lewis** - November 26, 2023 at 10:53 AM

SL

“ *Peaceful rest for JoAnn, I never knew her well, I knew her sister Judy as Judy was in high school when I was in high school. JoAnn lived a full and meaningful life; a wonderful example of gracious, western hospitality. Sincerely, Sister Susan Lardy*

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**S. Susan Lardy** - November 25, 2023 at 04:05 PM

GC

“ *While we will all miss this special lady and remember her with love...let's think of it as a happy reunion with Jay!*

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**gail chinn** - November 23, 2023 at 11:28 AM

ML

“ My Brother Leonard graduated together in the same class. We went to the same country school together for about 6 months and then they moved to Sentinel Butte to go to high school I always had a lot of respect for their families May she Rest In Peace My condolence goes out to all of her family

maurice Lardy - November 22, 2023 at 05:17 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Verna "JoAnn" Gorrell.



November 21, 2023 at 10:29 AM

AF

“ Alan Becky Robert Connie and families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Verna "JoAnn" Gorrell.

Alan Becky Robert Connie and families - November 21, 2023 at 10:29 AM

JO

“ Aunt Jo Ann you and mom Judi were so close and you and Jay were always so good to Jesse and Jodi and I ,I will always respect you and love you , you and Jay and jean and Judi and gram and grandad are all together again , Miki ,Marge ,Jeff and joe and families lots of love to you ,your cousin jack osterhout ,Los ang ,California

Jack osterhout - November 20, 2023 at 05:08 PM

TL

*I remember your mom very well. We were friends on facebook. I remember both Mikki and Margie from our childhoods. My mom, Donna Kirkpatrick Myers thought a great deal of your mom. It's hard to lose your mom . You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this time. Terry Myers Leppien  
Tracy, CA*

Terry Myers Leppien - November 21, 2023 at 06:47 PM

MB

*My condolences & prayers to you all for peace and comfort in the days ahead.  
Your mom holds a special place in my heart. Always welcoming, kind and thoughtful every time I saw her.  
Michele Biellier  
Sentinel Butte, ND*

Michele Biellier - November 22, 2023 at 10:12 PM

LJ

*“ Dad, Mom and I would often stop in on our way home to Billings from Watford City. Even if JoAnn did not know we were coming the coffee pot was always on and she had something to go with it ready. Sending love and hugs. Lisa and Geraldine Jore.*

Lisa Jore - November 20, 2023 at 12:53 PM



*“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Verna "JoAnn" Gorrell.*



November 20, 2023 at 01:05 AM

LG

“ Love to all from Aunt Bun, Doug & Greg. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Verna JoAnn Gorrell.

Love to all from Aunt Bun, Doug & Greg. - November 20, 2023 at 01:05 AM



“ Val and I offer our sympathy to JoAnn's family and loved ones. I always enjoyed my visits with her. Rest in peace, dear friend. Carol Tescher Obrigewitch

Carol TescherObrigewitch - November 18, 2023 at 11:07 PM

KA

JoAnn was a wonderful friend. I have a lot of great memories with the Gorrell family, I loved to stop and visit with my folks and later, by myself. She has been missed in the community for the last few years!

Katrinka - November 26, 2023 at 07:35 PM